1800 - 1801

SIDE ONE

Washington City. Octr. 15th 1801

If self condemnation diminishes guilt, I am worthy of Par-
-don My Dearest Ann. your goodness in commencing a Correspondance
I must ever remember with gratitude, & trust that same goodness will
lead you to grant a Forgiveness, requested with so much sincerity that
you cannot well refuse – I little imagined when at Melwood that a
very few hours Jolting would have procured me the happiness of seeing
~~Friends~~ so justly valued – we regretted not having seen your Brother
~~it will~~ always make us happy to receive any one dear to you, or who can
inform us of your health – My Aunt is still with us, but anxious to
return to Lisbon. the Country being in perfect Tranquillity now.
She wishes to leave us this Autumn. much better it had been if she ne-
-ver came. I assure you I anticipate her departure with dread – Mama
had been nearly seven years in this Country without enjoying the
society of any one of a beloved Family. Time, that universal meliora-
-tor, ~~of~~ diminished her regret at this Privation. A Sister then came
(to whom she is tenderly attached), who said on her arrival she would
stay but one year. but, Mama vainly imagined, the eloquence of sis-
-terly love would make every Resolution be forgotten – What she will
suffer at a Separation, (an eternal one most probably) your aff.te heart
can more sensibly feel, than I describe – Last Thursday I lost an intimate

Miss Ann Chester
West River
Near
Annapolis

WASH. CITY
OCT 17